

## **Do Babies go to Heaven?**

Pastor Joseph Clark – March 31, 2021

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” - Jesus

- Luke 18:16-17

"We believe that our Lord graciously and freely received all those who die in infancy--not on the basis of their innocence or worthiness--but by his grace, made theirs through the atonement He purchased on the cross."

- R. Albert Mohler Jr., President of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

"The way I see it is that God ordains, for his own wise purposes, that at the judgment day all the children who died in infancy will be covered by the blood of Jesus. And they will come to faith, either in heaven immediately or later in the resurrection."

- John Piper, Chancellor, Bethlehem College and Seminary

On the topic of the sad event of a child dying in the womb, at birth, or simply a child dying post birth, and whether they go to be with the Lord.

We must remember first and foremost why this is even in question. The Holy Spirit tells us in the word and as Christians we believe and know, in our hearts, that we are saved / born again when we choose to receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior as is instructed by him. To be saved is to become part of God's Kingdom now, and to enter his Heavenly kingdom when our bodies die, and we become spirit. As I wrote previously, one can go through a Baptism and not be saved if they have not truly received Christ in their heart. After all, God knows our hearts. We cannot hide if we are sincere or not. So being Baptized in water does not mean one is saved if

they have not been Baptised with the Holy Spirit. Being baptized with the Holy Spirit means that we genuinely accept Christ Jesus into our hearts in accordance with the Gospels.

But what of children who die before they can become saved in Christ?

As is with adults and children alike, only God knows who is saved and who is not saved. However, we can be encouraged by Jesus statement when he received the little children:

But Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” – Matthew 19: 14

In Mark 10 Jesus says, “Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”

In Matthew 18:2-6 Jesus said.

“Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. “Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.”

We can conclude from this that Jesus, God the Son, is telling us that little children, by virtue of their humility, innocence, and acceptance of God, are looked highly upon in Heaven.

When his Disciples asked Jesus who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven, Jesus called a child over and placed the child in the midst of them saying; “unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

In the Old testament, when David grieved the death of his child, he said; “Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me”

“I will go to him.” I will go to be with my deceased child. What a comforting thought. That we will be with our children in God’s Heavenly kingdom someday.

Lastly on this topic, in Revelation 14:6, John wrote, “Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal Gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people.”

Anyone who has not been Evangelized to, in this life, will receive the Good News of Jesus Christ so that they may choose to accept him as their Lord and Savior.

Contrary to the man-made traditions of certain denominations, there is absolutely no Biblical support for the notion of a purgatory or a limbo.

We must conclude that on the topic of where babies and children go if they die, that we must hope, we must pray, we can take comfort in what scripture assures us, we can be confident in Christ’s mercy and nature towards children, and trust in His plan.